



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Thursday, September 26, 2024

President Council convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The meeting was held at Peshine Avenue School, 433 Peshine Avenue, Newark, NJ 07112 with video access provided to the members of the public.

1. Call to Order (Reading of Statement) Ms. Valerie Wilson

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by advertising in the Star-Ledger, Haiti Progress, Luso Americano and La Voz newspapers and by distribution to administrative offices of the Newark Public Schools. Electronic notice was provided by posting on the Newark Board of Education website. A copy of this meeting notice was forwarded to City Hall for posting.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, and Mr. Council

Board Members Late:

Ms. Williams arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Board Members Left Early

Mr. Council left at 6:37 p.m.

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Garcia
Mr. Gonzalez

Administrative Staff President:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent
Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary
Ms. Nancy Deering, Director, Office of Board Relations
Ms. Brenda Liss, General Counsel
Ms. Yolonda Severe, Deputy Superintendent

4. Greetings from the Principal

Principal Rufai welcomed Board Members, the Superintendent, and members of the community to Peshine Avenue School.

Principal Rufai spoke about:

- Exiting Title 1 Status for SY 2024-25
- Improvements to the school
- Two 8th grade debate team members competed in the National Speech and Debate Tournament and brought home a trophy
- New Bilingual Spanish Program
- The students' performance included a song, dance and spoken words.

5. Recognitions

Superintendent León recognized the following students:

- Students who participated in the 63rd Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade
- High School Convocation for grades 9,10,11, &12
- 100 Students who earned a perfect score in English Language Arts
- 9 Students who earned a perfect score in Mathematics
- 4 Students who earned a perfect score in English Language Arts + Mathematics
- Athletics MVP of the Week: Omari Gaines from Shabazz High School
- Newark Fashion Forward Reality Show

6. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. James-Frison, to approve the minutes of the August Board Meeting minutes.

Moved: Ms. Anderson

Seconded: Ms. James-Frison

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas, Ms. Williams,
and Mr. Council 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried.

7. Board President's Report

President Council reported on the following:

- Annual Districtwide Convocation
- High School Convocation
- GiveMe5 Campaign
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Visiting Central Office departments
- Title I District-wide Parent Conference
- Upcoming Events:
 - o October 24, 2024: Regular Board Meeting, Thirteenth Avenue School at 6p.m.
 - o Open House events for High Schools
 - o Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
- Congratulating the Honorable LaMonica Mclver

8. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- Attendance Overview
- Year in Review SY 2023-24 Key Metrics
 - o Achievement (NJSLA)
- Newark Enrolls
- CARES Act
- ESSERII
- American Rescue Plan

Superintendent's Report continued

- Dates to Remember:
 - o All Schools Fair: November 2nd
 - o Newark Enrolls Applications Timeline SY 2025-26
 - November 2nd: Application Window Opens
 - February 7th: Application Window Closes
 - April 18th: Match Letters Released
 - o Newark Enrolls Auditions: November to January
 - Arts High School, Barringer High School, East Side High School
 - o Newark Enrolls 9th Grade High School Admission Test
 - NBOE 8th Graders: February 14th or February 21st
 - Non-NBOE 8th Graders: February 15th or February 22nd
 - o Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test
 - PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
 - October 1 - October 3, 2024
 - PSAT 10
 - March 3 – March 28, 2025
 - o Scholastic Aptitude Testing
 - 12th Graders: October 1 - October 31, 2024
 - 11th Graders: March 3 – March 28, 2025
 - o New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)
 - Grade 11: March 10 – March 14, 2025
 - o Saturday School for Juniors
 - December 7 & 14
 - January 4, 11, 18 and 25
 - February 1, 8, 15 and 22
 - March 1 & 14
 - o New Jersey Student Learning Assessments
 - Grade 11: April 28 – May 23, 2025
 - English I, Algebra I and Science
 - o Saturday School for Elementary Students
 - January 4, 11, 18 & 25
 - February 1, 8, 15, & 22
 - March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
 - April 5, 12, & 26

9. Public Participation

Ms. Wilson reviewed the guidelines for the public participation. The comments of the following speakers can be found on the Newark Board of Education's website under Board Meeting video archives:

- Denise Cole
- Carol Wisneiski
- Felicia Briggs-Herbert
- Ed Stevens
- Robin McBride

Public Participation continued

- Karla Schultz
- Sharon Jones
- Robin Gentry-Brown
- Alisia Monteiro
- Nadirah Brown
- Dr. Vivian White
- Kevin Porter
- Donna Jackson
- Cassandra Dock
- Latoya Jackson Tucker

10. Board Resolutions

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Santana, to approve Board Resolutions items 10.2– 10.3.

Moved: Ms. Anderson

Seconded: Ms. Santana

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

11. Finance & Operations - Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Ms. Vinhas, to approve Finance & Operations items 11.2 – 11.26.

Moved: Ms. Williams

Seconded: Ms. Vinhas

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6***

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6**

*Board members Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, and Ms. Vinhas abstained from agenda item 11.10 as it relates to them.

*Ms. Williams abstained from agenda items 11.10 as it relates to her and 11.23.

Motion Carried.

12. Personnel – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Vinhas, to approve Personnel items 13.2 – 13.11.

Moved: Ms. Haynes

Seconded: Ms. James-Frison

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

13. Instruction & Programs – Votes

There was a motion made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Haynes, to approve Instruction & Programs items 15.2 – 15.22.

Moved: Ms. Anderson

Seconded: Ms. Haynes

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

14. Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn made by Ms. Vinhas, seconded by Ms. Williams.

Moved: Ms. Vinhas

Seconded: Ms. Williams

Voice vote:

Yeas: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Haynes, Ms. James-Frison, Ms. Santana, Ms. Vinhas,
and Ms. Williams **6**

Nays: **0**

Abstentions: **0**

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted by:

Ms. La Shon Blake, Office of Board Relations

Reviewed by:

Ms. Valerie Wilson, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Mr. Roger León, Superintendent